

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 269868

64

ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 EA-10 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /062 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:JMPOPE:MR

APPROVED BY AF/P:JALINEHAN

----- 006724

R 092318Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

UNCLAS STATE 269868

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: OTTAWAY ARTICLE ON ETHIOPIA

1. DAVID OTTAWAY, IN LENGTHY COLUMN IN WASHINGTON POST DEC. 7, SAID U.S., IN COMING WEEKS, FACES DIFFICULT AND IMPORTANT POLICY DECISIONS REGARDING ETHIOPIA THAT MAY BE DECISIVE FACTOR IN DIRECTION OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION.

2. U.S., OTTAWAY NOTED, HAS BEEN ETHIOPIA'S "MAJOR BIG POWER ALLY AND ARMS SUPPLIER" FOR 20 YEARS, AND AN END TO FLOW OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT MIGHT CAUSE REGIME TO TURN TO COMMUNIST WORLD AS NASSER DID IN 1955 WHEN WASHINGTON REJECTED HIS ARMS DEMANDS. OTTAWAY SAID CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES, AS ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION BECOMES MORE BLOODY, LIKELY TO INCREASE FOR CUT-OFF IN U.S- ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID, AND ALREADY STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED HALT TO ALL NEW AID FOR TIME BEING.

3. OTTAWAY SAID SECRETARY KISSINGER REGARDS ETHIOPIA "AS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO U.S. BECAUSE IT BORDERS ON RED SEA AND HAS TWO SMALL BUT STRATEGICALLY LOCATED PORTS."

4. OTTAWAY SAID U.S. FISCAL '75 ARMS PACKAGE FOR ETHIOPIA  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 269868

IS "IN SERIOUS QUESTION," AS IS SCHEME TO GET ETHIOPIA SOME

SECOND-HAND F-5AS FROM IRAN "SINCE THE SHAH IS EVEN MORE INTERESTED IN THE FATE OF THE FORMER EMPERIOR THAN THE U.S."

5. DECLARING THAT AMERICAN ARMS, OLD AND NEW, WILL BE USED IN ERITREA BY THE REGIME IF THE FIGHTING THERE IS RENEWED ON A LARGER SCALE, OTTAWAY CONCLUDED:

"THE CHOICE FACING U.S. POLICYMAKERS IS, THEREFORE, NOT AN EASY ONE. IF MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS CONTINUED, THE ARMS MAY BE USED LARGELY IN AN INTERNAL WAR TO WIPE OUT THE ERITREAN SECESSIONIST GUERRILLAS. BUT IF THE ASSISTANCE IS CUT OFF, THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY COUNCIL MAY VERY WELL HAVE TO TURN TO THE SOVIETS OR CHINESE FOR HELP WITH FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE BURGEONING ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION.

THE NEXT OBVIOUS QUESTION IS WHETHER MOSCOW OR PEKING ANSWER THE ETHIOPIAN CALL FOR ARMS AND HELP.

THE GENERAL FEELING OF WESTERN DIPLOMATS HERE IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS AN UNLIKELY CANDIDATE BECAUSE OF ITS HEAVY COMMITMENT TO SOMALIA, IN RETURN FOR WHICH IT IS GETTING THE USE OF SOMALI PORTS AND AIRFIELDS. THE ARGUMENT RUNS THAT THE ETHIOPIANS COULD NEVER TRUST THE ALLY OF THEIR MAJOR ENEMY, PARTICULARLY ON SUCH A CRUCIAL ISSUE AS ARMS SUPPLIES. NONETHELESS, THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE MILITARY COUNCIL HAS PUT OUT FEELERS TO THE SOVIETS ON JUST THIS ISSUE.

BUT IT IS THE "CHINESE OPTION" THAT IS MOST HEATEDLY BEING DEBATED HERE FOR THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION WOULD SEEM TO HAVE A LOT MORE IN COMMON WITH THE CHINESE THAN THE SOVIET ONE AND PEKING LATE LAST YEAR EXTENDED AN ARMS OFFER THAT WAS NEVER TAKEN UP.

THE ROAD TO PEKING MAY NOT BE AN EASY ONE FOR ETHIOPIA'S NEW MILITARY RULERS TO TRAVEL EITHER, FOR CHINA'S GOOD FRIENDS IN AFRICA, MOST NOTABLY TANZANIA, HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE OUTSPOKEN IN THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE EXECUTIONS THAN THE UNITED STATES. WOULD CHINA

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 269868

RISK ANGERING ITS ESTABLISHED FRIENDS IN AFRICA TO WOO AND PERHAPS WIN THE HEARTS OF THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY? PERHAPS SO.

WITH THE SOVIETS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN SOMALIA AND WITH THE SOVIET-CHINESE RIVALRY AS RIFE AS EVER IN AFRICA, ETHIOPIA WOULD SEEM TO BE A NATURAL TARGET FOR PEKING STRATEGISTS. WHETHER THEY CAN PROVIDE THE

MILITARY WHEREWITHAL THAT SEEMS SO VITAL TO THE ETHIO-  
PIAN MILITARY REMAINS TO BE SEEN. BUT THEY MIGHT VERY  
WELL BE TEMPTED TO TRY.

THUS THOSE LEADING THE ANGRY OUTCRY IN CONGRESS  
OVER THE EXECUTIONS AND EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR THE FATE  
OF FORMER EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE WOULD DO WELL TO  
CONSIDER THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR OUTRAGE  
FOR THE FATE OF THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AS WELL. '

6. TEXT OF OTTAWAY ARTICLE AND EDITORIAL ON ETHIOPIA  
APPEARING IN SAME ISSUE BEING SENT VIA POUCH. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE269868  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JMPOPE:MR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740357-0729  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741249/aaaabpvu.tel  
**Line Count:** 127  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 SEP 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OTTAWAY ARTICLE ON ETHIOPIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, US, ET, WASHINGTON POST, (OTTAWAY, DAVID)  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA ASMARA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005